
DIGEST

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Murray

SB No. 156

Proposed law in Children's Code (Ch.C. Art. 905.1) requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections to, within 30 days of a child's admission to a secure care facility, assess the child's academic grade level using a research-based diagnostic tool.

Proposed law (Ch.C. Art. 905.1) provides that when a child is assigned to the secure custody of DPS&C following an adjudication of delinquency, DPS&C shall assess the child's academic grade level using a research-based diagnostic tool within 30 days of the child's admission and shall develop a written academic plan which shall be submitted to the court within 45 days of the child's admission to the secure facility.

Proposed law requires DPS&C to include a report on the child's academic progress in the department's quarterly report to the court, and upon the child's discharge from DPS&C custody, requires DPS&C to provide a copy of the child's academic plan and all progress reports to the child's parents or guardian and to the school or academic program in which the child is thereafter enrolled.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds Ch.C. Art. 905.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Clarifies that the assessment shall occur following an adjudication of delinquency and admission to a secure care facility.
2. Changes the type and time of the assessment from one assessing the child's reading ability within 15 days after admission to a secure facility to one assessing the child's academic grade level using a research based diagnostic tool within 30 days after admission to a secure care facility.
3. Sets forth the criteria upon which the academic plan is to be based for each individual child.
4. Changes the provisions regarding the structure of the academic plan depending upon whether the child tests at grade level or above or tests below grade level.
5. Requires the department to submit the individualized education plan or individualized learning plan to the court within 45 days of the child's admission to the secure care facility.
6. Removes requirement for court approval of the academic plan.
7. Provides that a report on the child's academic progress shall be included in the department's quarterly report to the court.
8. Provides that, after discharge from the department's custody, the department shall provide information to the school in which the child is thereafter enrolled upon written request.

9. Deletes provision authorizing electronic transmission of the academic plan.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill

1. Technical amendments made.
2. Changes General Equivalency Degree to General Educational Development Certification.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice to the re-reengrossed bill.

1. Made technical corrections.
2. Clarified language in provisions regarding legislative intent.